

Message Text

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ACTION BNDD-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SNM-02 JUSE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 4994

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7071

SECSTATE FOR IA: BELK OR WANZECK; INCC: DURKIN; INTELL: WARNER

ANKARA FOR BNDD BRIGGS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CALCUTTA INFO NEW DELHI FROM
DEPT OF TREASURY/ BUCHUSTOMS WASHDC JUNE 15 TH RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE:

PLEASE NOTIFY INDIAN CUSTOMS THAT THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE
IS BEING MADE TODAY IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL HASHISH OIL SMUGGLING RING BROKEN

AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH ATTEMPTED TO SMUGGLE
APPROXIMATELY 513 POUNDS OF HASHISH OIL INTO THE UNITED STATES
AND CANADA HAS BEEN CRUSHED BY TREASURY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS. ARRESTED WERE: TIMOTHY LEE

KLETT AND JOHN ALAN DLETT BOTH OF CARMEL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA.

ARRESTS WERE MADE DURING THE EVENING HOURS OF JUNE 14, 1973 IN
APTOS AND CARMEL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, WHEN THE SMUGGLERS ATTEMPTED
TO RECEIVE DELIVERY OF 60 POUNDS OF HASH OIL. IN ADDITION, 94 POUNDS
HAS BEEN SEIZED IN LOS ANGELES, AND 39 POUNDS IN SALT LAKE CITY,
UTAH, AND SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA. THESE REPRESENT THE LARGEST

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HASHISH OIL SEIZURES MADE IN THE UNITED STATES.

VERNON D. ACREE, COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, SAID THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE HASHISH OIL INTO VARIOUS CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA SINCE LATE 1969.

JOHN BROCKMAN, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, CUSTOMS OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS, SAN FRANCISCO, SAID THE GROUP HAD SMUGGLED THE HASHISH OIL FROM CALCUTTA, INDIA. CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN INDIA IN COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SEIZED AN ADDITIONAL 120 POUNDS OF HASHISH OIL IN CALCUTTA WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SAME ORGANIZATION. DURING THE JOINT INVESTIGATION WITH INDIAN CUSTOMS AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, VANCOUVER, IT WAS LEARNED THAT THIS GROUP HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ILLICIT ENTRY OF AT LEAST AN ADDITIONAL 200 POUNDS OF HASHISH OIL. THE GROUP UTILIZED COMMERCIAL AIRLINES AND VESSELS TO SMUGGLE THE HASHISH OIL INTO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

THE STREET VALUE OF THE 513 POUNDS IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT \$2-1/2 MILLION.

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IN ALL INSTANCES THE HASHISH OIL WAS SEALED IN DOUBLE CONDOMS. THE CONDOMS WERE SECRETED IN THE HOLLOWED- OUT SIDES OF PACKING CRATES CONTAINING OBJECTS OF ART. THE SHIPMENTS WERE DESTINED FOR VARIOUS FICTITIOUS CONSIGNEES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

THE INVESTIGATION WAS INITIATED MARCH 1973 WHEN A SUSPICITUS CUSTOMS INSPECTOR IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, DETECTED 34 POUNDS OF HASHISH OIL DURING AN INSPECTION OF A SHIPMENT CONSISTING OF TWO CRATES. SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION BY UNITED STATES CUSTOMS, INDIAN CUSTOMS AND RCMP LED TO THE ARRESTS OF THE SMUGGLERS.

COOPERATING WITH CUSTOMS SPECIAL AGENTS IN THE ARRESTS WERE MEMBERS OF THE SANTA CRUZ AND MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFFS-DEPARTMENTS.

HASHISH OIL IS PRODUCED BY BOILING HASHISH IN SOLID FORM WITH A CHEMICAL AND THEN SKIMMING THE OIL OFF THE TOP. THE OIL, THE CONSISTENCY OF SYRUP, IS USED, USUALLY ONE DROP AT A TIME, IN A REGULAR OR ROLLED CIGARETTE OR PIPE TOBACCO.

THE ARRESTED PERSONS WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE THE U. S. MAGISTRATE
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AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, WHERE THEY WILL BE ARRAIGNED AND BAIL SET.

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U. S. CUSTOMS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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